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"PATENT"

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 10/635,983
Applicant : Kenneth Allen WINDHORST
Filed : August 07, 2003
TC/A.U. : 1621
Title: "PROCESSES FOR PREPARING ORGANIC COMPOUNDS
HAVING IMPROVED COLOR CHARACTERISTICS"
Examiner : PUTTLITZ, Karl J.
Docket No. : C-7220
Customer No. : 23631

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Date: June 23, 2005

Transmitted to Art Unit 1621 – Fax Phone No. 571-273-8300
Commissioner for Patents
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RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

This is a Response to the Restriction Requirement mailed March 31, 2005.

The Restriction Requirement divides the pending claims into two groups: (I) claims 1-9 and 14-20 and (II) claims 10-13.

Applicants hereby elect to prosecute claims 1-9 and 14-20 corresponding to Group I. However, Applicants respectfully traverse the Restriction Requirement. Claims 1-9 and 14-20 relate to methods of preparing certain organic compounds involving steps of combining the organic compounds with water and/or introducing a product stream containing one of the organic compounds into a distillation column. Claims 10-13 relate to methods of preparing the same types of organic compounds by introducing a product stream containing one of the organic compounds into a distillation column.

The two groups of claims share many claim limitations between them. For example, the claimed distillation steps set forth in claim 9 are also present in claim 14. Therefore, a search to evaluate the patentability of claims 14-20 would, by necessity, include the same collection of prior art searched to examine claims 9-13.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 9-13 may be examined without additional search effort. Moreover, searching and examining all claims together will promote the overall efficiency of the patenting process. Reconsideration of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

U.S. Serial Application No.: 10/635,983
Attorney Docket No.: C-7220
Response to Restriction Requirement dated 03/31/05

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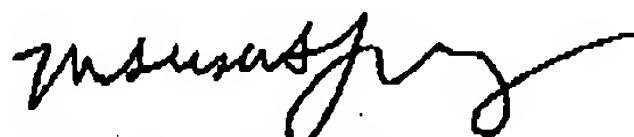
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Conclusion

Applicants elect to prosecute claims 1-9 and 14-20 with traverse. Reconsideration of the Restriction Requirement and examination of all pending claims is earnestly solicited.

It is believed that this submission is fully responsive to the outstanding Restriction Requirement. However, should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at the number listed below so that all matters may be expeditiously resolved.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Date: June 23, 2005

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